

OPPOSED **SB 41 Health – Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)

Hello,

Eleven years ago my nephew received the flu shot at the age of 17 and was admitted to the hospital for 5 days clinging to his life. See, he had a bad reaction to the flu shot and his parents were aware of the medical procedure he had received and rushed him to the hospital. This open communication is something this bill is trying to take away from me and my family.

I have the right as a parent to discuss with my minor child and her doctor what drugs she recommends and what drugs may be contraindicated. To give a child freedom to make medical decisions as a minor is irresponsible, careless and dangerous. You won't allow anyone under the age of 18 to buy cigarettes why? Because it is irresponsible, careless and dangerous to their health but at 18 it is their choice. You won't allow any one under the age of 21 to drink why? Because it is irresponsible, careless and dangerous to their health but at the age of 21 the law says that they should be mature enough to make that choice. Then why would it be okay for a 12 year old to make medical decisions without discussing this with their parents and doctor.

I'm sure if my child were to end up in the hospital like my nephew was clinging to his life none of the people voting on this horrible bill will be there to help me physically, emotionally or financially yet you expect me to take care of my minor child who you gave adult responsibilities to....make up your mind either they are an adult or a minor. Emancipate them at 12 and make them an adult at 12 if you feel they are mature enough and don't make me responsible for their health, their food, their shelter or schooling. Let my 12 year vote, drive, smoke, get a job, buy a house....I mean after all she is mature enough to make medical decision why not let her do everything else.

I am assuming that those who are in favor of this horrible bill are not parents because this is a true slap in the face as a parent furthermore you must not remember being 12 and needing the guidance and reassurance of your parents. I wonder what you were doing at the age of 12.....I'm pretty sure it wasn't making medical decisions that could affect the rest of your life.

Has there been any discussion of the side effects of pharmaceutical drugs that can cause mental and emotional disorders even suicidal thoughts from ADHD drugs? Instead of listening to doctors who get kickbacks from the pharmaceutical company and pharmaceutical sales rep try actually reading the package insert of some of these mental health drugs that would be available according to this bill to a 12 year old.

I am a CARING AND LOVING PARENT and a registered Maryland voter and I will be watching this bill and any bill that questions my right to fully be present in my child's life and will be voting accordingly.

Thank you,
Karen